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TAGS: OPRC OIIP BR XM XR KMDR

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: BRAZIL'S ROLE IN HAITI

Gaseous Diplomacy

Article in liberal Folha de S. Paulo (1-28) by Janio de Freitas states: "The solution to the provocation, supposedly diplomatic, had an even worse result. Trying to lessen the negative repercussions of the initiative to distribute food and water in front of U.S. troops....some Americans were called to join the Brazilians in a new round of distribution. The impromptu act provoked a run from desperate people. And there was such tumult that Brazilian troops....used pepper spray and tear gas to contain the crowd. The idea [of distributing food] attributed to Foreign Minister Celso Amorim while passing through Haiti revisits improper and even irregular procedures for the Brazilian troops. The function designated by the UN for Brazil is to provide security while working together with troops from other countries under the mandate of MINUSTAH."